

# M.V. Records for Industrial Warwickshire

By M. VICE

It was interesting to note the M.V. records for Charlecote in Warwickshire. I also ran a M.V. moth trap in that county in Coventry. At the back of the house there is a large factory and at the front a main road; so therefore I think I am justified in calling the area industrial.

Naturally the number of moths taken are less than at Charlecote both in variety and quantity. However some interesting species arrive in the trap from time to time. The trap, which is situated in the garden at the rear of the house, is in operation from dusk to dawn on most nights between the months of March and October.

Of the Sphingidae I can boast four different species:—3 *Mimas tiliae* L. (Lime Hawk), 10 *Laothoe populi* L. (Poplar Hawk), 1 *Smerinthus ocellata* L. (Eyed Hawk), 2 *Deilephila elpenor* L. (Large Elephant Hawk).

As for the commonest moths, they are very similar to the records for Charlecote but in smaller numbers. *Triphaena pronuba* L. (Yellow Underwing) heads the list with 656, with *Apamea monoglypha* Hufn. (Dark Arches) second and *Agrotis exclamatoris* (Heart and Dart) a close third with 500.

The next seven in the quantity stakes are:—268 *Caradrina morpheus* Hufn. (Mottled Rustic), 198 *Apamea secalis* L. (Common Rustic), 140 *Apamea sordens* Hufn. (Rustic Shoulder Knot), 110 *Plusia gamma* L. (Silver Y), 64 *Triphaena comes* Hübn. (Lesser Yellow-underwing), 51 *Melanchra presicariae* L. (Dot), 49 *Mamestra brassicae* L. (Cabbage Moth).

Out of the ten foremost moths mentioned in Mr Brown's article five figure in my top ten. Four out of the other five were common except for *Diarsia brunnea* Schiff. (Purple Clay) which was non-existent.

I have never approached anything like 4000 moths in a night, the highest number I have ever recorded being 316 on June 30th. Although it is an industrial district the occasional woodland species occurs such as *Thyatira batis* L. (Peach Blossom) and *Amphipyra pyramidea* L. (Copper Underwing). Even a moth that has a preference for marshy places. *Plusia festucae* L. (Gold Spot), has been taken. Another moth of interest is *Abraxas sylvata* Scop. (Clouded Magpie), a scarce species for the area, as is *Apatele Leporina* L. (Miller). These both appeared in the moth trap in June on the 10th and 15th respectively. *Polychrisia moneta* Fab. (Golden Plusia) generally pays us a visit although only one was captured in 1968.

Many of the moths tend towards melanism such as *Biston betularia* L. (Peppered Moth) being predominantly ab. *carbonaria*. Other moths with this tendency are *A. monoglypha* Hufn. ab. *infuscata*, *Meganephria oxyacanthae* L. (Green Brindled Crescent) ab. *capucina*, and *Dysstroma truncata* Hufn. (Common Marbled Carpet) (which is predominantly ab. *perfuscata*).

As a final footnote *Orgyia antiqua* L. (Vapourer) occurs fairly regularly each year at the trap and so does *Chiasmia clathrata* L. (Latticed Heath).

The above records are all for 1968 except for the mention of *T. batis* and *A. pyramidea* which were captured in a previous year.

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